

III. 2 Mar 84

U S S R I N T E R N A T I O N A L A F F A I R S
SOUTH ASIA

D 1

CIA TRAINS PUNJAB 'SEPARATIST' 'CUTTHROATS'

LD010941 Moscow TASS in English 0854 GMT 1 Mar 84

[Text] New Delhi March 1 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Bokhonko reports: The newspaper HINDUSTAN TIMES has reported another crime by U.S.-backed secessionists. It said that they had exploded a bomb outside a Hindu church in Amritsar, Punjab, during a religious holiday, killing several and gravely injuring more than 30 people, including women and children. Continuing attacks by secessionists have aroused public indignation in this country. The local press says that the splinter groups, which covet the wresting of Punjab from India, are backed by the United States which is supplying them with instructions and giving them generous financial aid. Cutthroats from the separatist gangs Dal Khalsa and Babbar Khalsa are being trained under the guidance of C.I.A. instructors in camps located in Pakistani territory.

The Western mass media are trying to present developments in Punjab as clashes between different sections of the population on religious grounds, as "infringements" upon the rights of the Sikhs. They are bending over backwards to conceal the sordid part played in that strategically important Indian state by some foreign powers. The crisis in Punjab, said NATIONAL HERALD, a newspaper close to government circles, was rooted in gross external interference in India's internal affairs.

PLIGHT OF SOLDIER DISABLED IN DRA DESCRIBED

PM011103 [Editorial Report] Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 February 1984 carries on page 4 a 3,200-word report by special correspondent I. Rudenko, datelined Nikopol, titled "Duty," and published under the rubric "Journey Prompted by a Letter." The item describes at length the tribulations of former Private Aleksandr Ivanovich Nemtsov, bearer of the order of the Red Star, on his return to his home town of Nikopol. Nemtsov was invalidated out of the Army as a paraplegic, the result of wounds sustained in the "execution of his international duty." According to Rudenko, "The doctors discovered two bullets in his body. One is still in his chest, the second was extracted from his spinal column. It was the extracted one that deprived him of the use of his legs."

Writing about the incident in which Nemtsov was wounded, the author says: "The bullet hit him in the spine while he was bending over someone else. "Tolik was not only his close friend. He was also his commander. They were next to each other when their column was attacked by a gang. Tolik then rushed to the side, into the bushes growing on the edge of the ravine. And disappeared. He called him once, twice, but Tolik did not answer and Sasha [Nemtsov], disregarding someone else's warning cry, ran toward the edge of the ravine. He ran into the path of that fateful bullet, not knowing about it but well aware that it could be there. His Army service was drawing to an end, and 2 years of this service had made him older and more experienced than his own father. Even before he reached the bushes Sasha saw both Tolik, stretched out on the ground, and those who had felled him -- they were withdrawing into the bushes, firing as they went. The way Tolik was lying, even the greenest of recruits would have imagined the worst. But Sasha, drawing on the last ounces of hope, took a few steps, without realizing that they would be his last, and bent over his friend."

Rudenko writes of Nemtsov's courage in the hospital and describes how he refused painkillers and yearned to return home. The author then turns to the invalid's problems with housing and transportation.

III. 2 Mar 84

D 2

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
SOUTH ASIA

He quotes Nemtsov's mother on her difficulties in obtaining a ground floor apartment in exchange for their former fourth floor one, which entailed repeated visits to Nikopol Gorispolkom officials Verchenko, Ignatenko, and Chairman Kovalenko. A year after Nemtsov's discharge from hospital he was given a specially adapted car, but the local militia threatened to remove its license plates unless it was parked in a garage overnight. This led to further visits to various offices to obtain permission and materials for constructing the garage, which in the end cost Nemtsov's mother R825, which she had to borrow. Rudenko quotes Nemtsov's neighbor Leonid Maksimov, who tells of the difficulty in obtaining materials to build a ramp to enable the invalid to wheel his chair from the apartment to the garage and complains of the insensitivity of various officials. Another neighbor, Yuriy Kuznetsov, comments: "We look for heroes in the distant past, yet they are living here, right next to us." Kuznetsov then goes on to criticize the indifference of the Komsomol Gorkom officials to Nemtsov's plight.

Rudenko cites Nemtsov's medical file, which describes his scars as the result of "firearms wounds," and concludes: "But it is not only firearms wounds that leave scars."

DRA'S TRANSPORTATION 'DIFFICULT,' 'DANGEROUS'

LD261538 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 26 Feb 84

[By (Boris Savadyan), Kabul correspondent]

[Summary] More than 600 Soviet trucks of the Maz, Kraz and Kamaz type belonging to the Afghan-Soviet Company Avsotr are now engaged in haulage activities. "From the Amu Darya banks to Afghanistan inland they deliver bags with cement, containers with plant equipment, barrels of fuel, timber and medicines, clothes and shoes, television sets and sugar. Goods arriving at the Soviet-Afghan border do not have far to travel afterwards, but Afghan roads are difficult -- jolting, dust, summer heat, snow drifts and ice on the road, sharp bends in winter. In addition, crossing the Afghan mountains is dangerous. Snow drifts and slides and avalanches are not the only danger for a driver. Not infrequently, shots can be heard in the mountains and mine explosions echo in the canyons. Words of caution are sometimes received from various regions of the country -- here and there basmachis have blocked the road, blown up a bridge, burnt a gasoline carrier, shot up bus passengers. Those things happen in the undeclared war that imperialist and reactionary forces have unleashed against the republic. But the vehicles continue moving along the road, escorted frequently by armored cars and even tanks.

"I have been transporting goods for many years, 'Abdol, an Avsotr driver, says.

[Begin 'Abdol recording in vernacular fading into translation] At one time the counterrevolutionaries successfully persuaded private truck drivers to engage in sabotage. So, in Soviet vehicles, we brought supplies of food, fuel, shoes and clothes to the population. Enemies of the revolution have not given up even today. They try to frighten us and order us not to work. They killed 26 of our comrades, fired on the entrance gate, blew up trucks. And they did that because we drivers delivered not merely goods but also the truth about the revolution and the fraternal help of the Soviet Union." [end 'Abdol recording]

Many cooperatives, Pioneer camps and resorts for working people have opened on Afghan soil and new enterprises have been built with Soviet help.